Living conditions of animals in zoological parks

† 2782. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proper care is not taken regarding living conditions and food of animals in most of the zoological parks in the country, due to which their condition is pitiable;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any concrete steps to resolve this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Evaluation of various zoos by the Central Zoo Authority reveal several inadequacies in housing, upkeep and health care of animals in various zoos.

(b) to (d) Steps taken by the Central Zoo Authority for improving the housing, upkeep and health care of animals are also follows:

(i) Hundred per cent financial assistance is extended for improvement of housing, upkeep and health care facilities.

(ii) Technical help is given for finalizing the collection plan, master plan, designing of enclosures etc.

(iii) Organizing trainings and workshops for upgrading the skills of zoo staff.

(iv) Coordination of breeding programmes for endangered species including exchange, loaning and pooling of breeding stock.

Wild Life Population in Ranthambore National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve

2783. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently conducted census of wildlife, including tigers, at Ranthambore National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.